

REMARKS

The present amendment is responsive to the Office Action issued September 16, 2009 in the present application. In the Action, claims 1-20 were rejected. In the present amendment, claims 1, 8, 9, 11, and 18 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 2-3 and 12-13 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1, 4-11 and 14-20 remain pending for the Examiner's consideration.

Claims 1-7 and 11-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publn. No. 2002/0066113 to Utsonomiya et al. ("Utsonomiya") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,169,844 to Arai ("Arai").

Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

"in the case of continuously executing a data recordation process to at least another of the plurality of information recording means, a plurality of pieces of reproduction procedure information are generated corresponding respectively to the plurality of information recording means, and link information to the plurality of pieces of reproduction procedure information is stored to one piece of the reproduction management information, and

wherein the recordation control process executing section is adapted to store continue information, representative of whether recording a same content continuously to a next piece of reproduction procedure information, to storage domains corresponding to individual pieces of reproduction procedure information, and to store end information, representative of whether a piece of reproduction procedure information is a final piece of reproduction procedure information, in a data storage domain corresponding to an individual piece of reproduction procedure information."

Support for this amendment may be found in the Specification, for example, at paragraphs [0105]-[0106] of the published specification.

Neither Utsonomiya nor Arai teach the limitations of amended claim 1. Particularly, neither Utsonomiya nor Arai teach a recordation control process executing section that is adapted to store continue information and end information.

Utsonomiya teaches that a user instructs a recorder/player 3 to record contents A, and the recorder/player 3 receives compressed digital output from a broadcast receiver 2 and writes it to a disk 18. (Utsonomiya, ¶¶ [0052]-[0053]). The recorder/player 3 monitors the available capacity of the disk 18, and as long as there is available capacity on the disk 18, the recorder/player 3 continually checks for instructions to stop writing. (Id., at ¶ [0054]). If no such instructions have been received, the recorder/player continues writing the contents A, and if necessary adds to content A information indicating that recording will be continued on a separate disk. (Id., at [0056]). If instructions to stop have been received, the recorder/player 3 will stop writing and do nothing further. (Id., at [0058]). That is, no end information is stored in a data storage domain corresponding to an individual piece of reproduction procedure information or anywhere else. Accordingly, Utsonomiya fails to teach a recordation control process executing section adapted to store end information in a data storage domain corresponding to an individual piece of reproduction procedure information.

Arai fails to cure this defect. In fact, Arai is not even related to recording content across a plurality of information recording means. Rather, Arai relates to controlling a data transfer rate of input signals to enable simultaneous recordings of a plurality of programs.

Accordingly, Arai does not and could not teach a recordation control process executing section adapted to store continue information and end information in a data storage domain corresponding to an individual piece of reproduction procedure information.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 is patentable over Utsonomiya and Arai, taken alone or in combination. Because claims 4-7 depend from and therefore include the limitations of claim 1, Applicants further submit that claims 4-7 are also patentable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1 and 4-7 be withdrawn.

Independent claim 11, which was rejected on the same grounds as claim 1, has been amended to recite similar limitations to those discussed above in connection with claim 1. Accordingly, for at least the same reasons as discussed in connection with claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is also patentable. Moreover, because claims 14-17 depend from and include the limitations of claim 11, Applicants further submit that claims 14-17 are also patentable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 11 and 14-17 also be withdrawn.

Claims 8-10 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Utsonomiya in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,112,010 to Koyama et al. ("Koyama").

Claim 8 has been amended to recite similar limitations to those discussed above in connection with claims 1 and 11, relating to storing continue information and end information. As explained above, Utsonomiya fails to teach such limitations. Koyama fails to cure this defect.

Koyama, similar to Arai, is not even related to recording content across a plurality of information recording means. Rather, Koyama relates to compressing data corresponding to still pictures in order to maximize storage space on a storage medium. Accordingly, Koyama does not teach a recordation control process executing section adapted to store continue information and end information in a data storage domain corresponding to an individual piece of reproduction procedure information.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 8 is patentable over Utsonomiya and Koyama, taken alone or in combination. Because claims 9-10 depend from claim 8 and include all the limitations thereof, Applicants further submit that claims 9-10 are also patentable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 8-10 be withdrawn.

Independent claim 18 has been amended to recite similar limitations to those of claim 8. Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 8, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 18, and claims 19-20 which depend therefrom, is patentable over Utsonomiya and Koyama. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 18-20 also be withdrawn.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

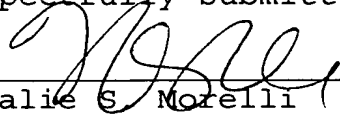
Application No.: 10/500,401

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If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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